THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No. Sir.

Protection or the indigenous industry of sophisticated diagnostic equipment

3336. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether indigenous manufacturers of sophisticated diagnostic equipment like whole body scanners have complained to Government against duty-free inmports of machines from multinational companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to protect the indigenous industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) Some of the indigenous manufacturers of medical equipments have represented against the existing provisions in the Customs Notification allowing duty free import of medical equipments by Government Hospitals/Charitable Institutions against NMIC certificate from the Head of the Institution/DGTD and essentiality certificate from DGHS.

(c) Indigenous manufacturers are allowed to import components for the manufacture of medical equipment at concessional rate of duty.

Complaints Against inflated local call Bill

3337. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any study to ascertain the general causes of subscribers' complaints against inflated local call bills in cities;

(b) if so what are the main causes that have come to Government's notice in this regard; and

(c) what system has been devised to check the diversion of lines to the detriment of unwary subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main causes of excess billing complaints are as indicated below:—

1. Clerical errors and wrong feeding to computer.

2. Excess registration of calls in the meters because of technical faults.

3. Faulty circuit conditions.

4. Diversion of lines|malpractices.

(c) Although very few cases of diversion of lines have come into the notice of Department, the Department has taken the following steps to prevent such malpractice:—

1. Sealing of meters

2. Locking of Meter Rooms

3. Restriction of entry into M.D.F. Rooms

4. Locking of Distribution Points

5. Raising the level of Distribution Points

6. Formation of mobile vigilance squads to check malpractice..

Post and Telegraph office Buildings

3338. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Post and Telegraph Offices located in their own buildings and those in rented buildings in urban and rural areas;

(b) whether there is any proposal to go in for their own buildings; and

(c) if so, what is the target date for this both in urban and rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c) Subject to availability of funds, construction of Deptt. buildings can be taken up only where it is considered justified to do so.

Appointments on compassionate Grounds in P & T Department

3339. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether one dependent of the employees who dies in harness is eligible to be appointed on compassionate grounds in the same department in the grade according to his/her qualifications.

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that such dependents in Telecommunication department have to wait for two-three years for appointment, some time for want of vaccines or some other reasons;

(c) if so, whether in such cases the dependents of the deceased official can retain the Government quarter paying the normal licence fee as per rules till one of the dependents is appointed on compassionate grounds; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir. When a govt. servant dies in harness leaving his family in indigent circumstances, then one dependent is eligible for consideration for compassionate appointment.

(b) Since any appointment is against a vacancy only, non-availability of vacancy leads to such delays.

(c) and (d) The families of the deceased employees are permitted to retain the Government quarters for six months on payment of normal licence fee and for further four months on payment of enhanced licence fee.

Handing over of public sector units to private sector

3340. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the areas being considered for handing over to the private sector from the public sector;

(b) whether such recommendations have been tabled by official or semi-official quarters and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the reasons for which labour participation is not implemented from top to bottom to improve the performance of the public sector?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Government has neither marked any areas being considered for handing over from public sector to private sector nor have taken any policy decision to hand over any of the public sector units to private sector.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) To the extent possible, workers' participation in management at various levels have been implemented in a large number of public sector enterprises.

Elections to the Joint Negotiating Committee of BHEL

3341. SHRI K. G. MAHESWARAPPA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that elections to the Joint Negotiating Committee in the BHEL were last held in 1978;

(b) whether the rules of the Joint Negotiating Committee require that elections be held once in every two years;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for which the elections have not been held for the last nine years;

(d) whether several unions have demanded the immediate holding of elections;

(e) if so, whether Government would direct the BHEL management to act on their demand; and